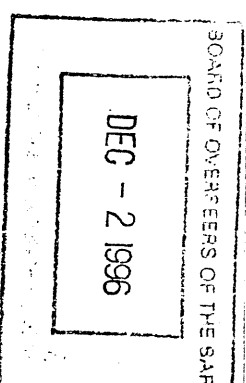


STATE OF MAINE



SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

DOCKET NO. BAR-96-14

BOARD OF OVERSEERS OF THE BAR

Petitioner

v.

SCHUYLER G. STEELE

Respondent

ORDER

This matter was heard by the court at Bangor on November 26, 1996, on an Information filed by the Board of Overseers of the Bar against Schuyler G. Steele. The Board was represented by Assistant Bar Counsel Geoffrey S. Welsh. Mr. Steele was represented by Francis M. Jackson. By agreement of the parties, the court considered the transcript of the testimony offered at a hearing held before a panel of the Grievance Commission of the Board of Overseers and testimony from Mr. Steele. On the basis of the record of the Grievance Commission hearing and Mr. Steele's own testimony, the court concludes that Schuyler G. Steele has violated M. Bar R. 3.6(a) and 3.6(a)(3).

The court finds that Mr. Steele failed to take reasonable measures to keep his clients, Ronald and Samantha Sargent, informed of the status of Ronald Sargent's workers' compensation claim, and neglected Sargent's appeal of the denial of his application for supplemental security income. Mr. Steele testified as to the changes in the mode and method in which he practices law instituted by him subsequent to the commencement of these

proceedings.

The purpose of these proceedings is not punishment, but protection of the public in the courts from attorneys who by their conduct have demonstrated that they are unable, or likely to be unable, to discharge properly their professional duties. M. Bar R. 2(a). The court is satisfied that that purpose can be accomplished in this instance by a probationary period based upon a suspended sentence.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that Schuyler G. Steele be suspended from the practice of law for a period of ninety days, and it is further ORDERED that his suspension be suspended for a period of one year, subject to the following conditions:

1. Mr. Steele shall seek the assistance of a member of the bar of this State to advise him on matters of proper office procedures and shall identify such individual to Bar Counsel.

2. Mr. Steele shall promptly adopt office procedures by which he shall keep his clients informed of the status of their affairs.

3. Mr. Steele shall properly attend to all legal matters entrusted to him.

4. Mr. Steele shall file a confidential report to the court thirty days subsequent to the date of this order concerning the following subjects:

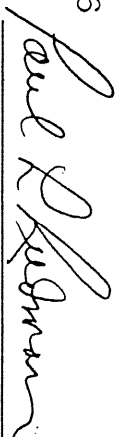
- (a) Measures he has taken to avoid delinquencies;

- (b) Measures he has taken to keep his clients informed as to matters entrusted by them to him; and

- (c) Any professional assistance he has received.

5. Bar Counsel may file an Information concerning any further complaints against Mr. Steele without the necessity of Grievance Commission review.

DATED: November 27, 1996

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul L. Rudman", written over a horizontal line.

Paul L. Rudman, Associate Justice